

not thought of this question, if we have not prayed over it, let us do so now, remembering that there is a vast amount of work in this world for God's children to do; and if we are sick, or go into an early grave because of our neglect of God's laws, and God's plans for our health, we are cutting short a large part of our Christian usefulness. Let us be on our guard in this respect, and treat our bodies as God would have us to do.

THE RIGHT PLACE

Rev. J. C. Ryle.

The Lord Jesus knows better than his people what is the right position for them to be in. We are told that when our Lord was on the point of leaving the country of the Gadarenes, the man "that had been possessed with the devil, prayed him that he might be with him." We can well understand that request. He felt grateful for the blessed change which had taken place in himself. He was full of love toward his deliverer. He thought he could not do better than follow our Lord, and go with him as his companion and disciple. He was ready to give up home and country, and go after Christ. And yet, strange as it appears at first sight, the request was refused. "Jesus suffered him not." Our Lord had other work for him to do. Our Lord saw better than he did the way he could glorify God most. "Go home to thy friends," he said, "and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee."

There are lessons on profound wisdom in these words. The place which Christians wish to be in is not always the place which is best for their souls. The position which they would choose, if they could have their own way, is not always that which Jesus would have them occupy. There are none who need this lesson so much as believers newly converted to God. Such persons are often very poor judges of what is really good for them. Full of the new views which they have been graciously taught, excited with the novelty of their present position, seeing everything around them in a new light, knowing little yet of the depths of Satan and the weakness of their own hearts, knowing only that a little time ago they were blind, and now, through mercy, they see, they are in the greatest danger of making mistakes. With the best intentions, they are apt to fall into mistakes about their plans in life, their choices, their motives and their professions. They forget that what we like best is not always best for our souls, and that the seed of grace needs winter as well as summer, cold as well as heat, to ripen it for glory.

Let us pray that God would guide us

in all our ways after conversion, and not allow us to err in our choices, or to make hasty decisions. That place is most healthful for us in which we are kept most humble, most taught our own sinfulness, drawn most to the Bible and prayer, led most to live by faith and not by sight. It may not be quite what we like. But if Christ by his providence has placed us in it, let us not be in a hurry to leave it. Let us there abide with God. The great thing is to have no will of our own, to be where Jesus would have us.

"NOT SLOTHFUL IN BUSINESS"

Rev. W. L. Wilkinson.

As Christian people, let us remember that we are called upon to put our whole soul into our secular life. God has not promised the things of this life to the lazy. We must be earnest, discreet, economical, prudent, painstaking. All Christians do not understand this. Some years ago I knew a religious working man who was making exceptionally high wages; the times were good, and he found himself in possession of splendid pay. I said to him, "Well, my friend, I suppose you are putting a little away for a rainy day?" "No," was the reply; "I never trouble about rainy days. I always leave rainy days with my Master." So he spent his money freely, making of life a picnic. The last I heard of that brother was that he had gone into the workhouse, and I hardly think Providence led him there. Now I say to you: Don't leave rainy days with your Master, get an umbrella; or, in other words, exercise sense, tact, denial, forethought, in all your temporal affairs, for it is only when you work with both hands diligently that God promises you success. But when you have done this, when you have done your best to provide honest things, be quiet. No painful misgiving thoughts or words. When you have done your best, God will do all.

The Little People

JUNIOR LESSON FOR AUGUST 7

Lessons from the Life of Elijah.—I Kings 18: 20-39

Dear Boys and Girls:—For several weeks in our Sunday-schools we have been studying about Elijah, God's great prophet. We are now to spend some time in reviewing the lessons we have learned from his life.

1. *His Name.* Sometimes we say there is nothing in a name, but in the case of Elijah there was something in his name. It means, "Jehovah is my God." No doubt very early in life he learned about God, and perhaps his parents knew that he would be a great prophet of the Lord and so they named him Elijah. But may there not be something in your name also? What is it? John? Well, that means "gift of God," and

every boy named John should give himself as a gift to Jesus. Is your name David? That means "beloved." All Davids should prove themselves worthy of being loved. Charles means "manly;" Annie means "merciful;" Ida means "Godlike;" Kate means "pure;" Jane means "full of grace;" Lizzie means "consecrated," and so on. You see names have a meaning, but then it matters little what your name may be you can all be good, love and obey God. There is one name however that means more than all other names, the name that stands above every other name, and the only name whereby we can be saved. That name is Jesus. He is our Savior. Why was he called Jesus? Who can tell?

2. *Courage.* Elijah was a man of courage. He was not afraid to do right. He had a message to deliver to the wicked king Ahab, and he went and delivered it without fear. He told him that it would not rain for a long time, except at his word. Boys often have a message to deliver to their companions, but they are afraid to tell them the truth. Do you know of some one who smokes? God wants you to tell that one that it is wrong. Have you friends who drink whiskey? You should boldly tell them that it is not right and that they ought to quit. If a boy swears in your presence, are you afraid to tell him that he is dishonoring his Savior? So you see we need as much courage now as Elijah did when he lived on the earth.

3. *Trust.* Another lesson we learn from Elijah is that he trusted God. There was to be no rain in the land for a long time, but Elijah did not ask how he was to live. While many people would die because of the great famine, how was Elijah to live? He knew God would take care of him. So we should trust God. Why should we be anxious about tomorrow? Look at the birds, they do not worry, and yet God takes care of them, feeds and clothes them. Are we not better than they? What we need to do is to trust God, he will take care of us. But some people are afraid to trust him. Once a man started to walk across the great Mississippi river when it was frozen over. He was afraid the ice would not carry him, and at last he got down on his hands and knees and crept along, bruising them that the blood flowed. When he was near the other side a team of two horses passed him, having crossed the river at the same place where the timid man crept along. The one trusted, the other did not. On the way to Canaan, crossing the river, many fear that they cannot hold out. They are like the man who crept along fearing every moment that he would go down. Let us trust God. Cannot he hold us up? He certainly can. "It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in men."

4. *Obedience.* Here is another lesson we learn from the life of Elijah. He obeyed God. When he told him to go down to the brook that he would feed him there, he went without asking a question. So when God told him that he should go and board with a poor widow who did not have enough for